

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly replace the paragraph [0004] on pages 1-2 with the following paragraph, which incorporates the changes as shown:

[0004] Methanol is a raw material often used in fermentation which is inexpensive and widely and easily available. Methods for producing L-amino acids by fermentation of methanol have been known using microorganisms that belong to the genus *Achromobacter* or *Pseudomonas* (Japanese Patent Publication Laid-open (Kokai Kokoku) No. 45-25273), *Protaminobacter* (Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication (Kokoku Kokai) No. 49-125590), *Protaminobacter* or *Methanomonas* (Japanese Patent Laid-open (Kokai) No. 50-25790), *Microcyclus* (Japanese Patent Laid-open (Kokai) No. 52-18886), *Methylobacillus* (Japanese Patent Laid-open (Kokai) No. 4-91793), *Bacillus* (Japanese translation of PCT international application Patent Laid-open (Kokai Kohyo) No. 3-505284 (WO90/12105)) and the like. The inventors of the present invention to date have developed methods for producing L-amino acids using *Methylophilus* bacteria employing breeding techniques utilizing artificial mutagenesis and recombinant DNA (Japanese Patent Application No. 11-368097 WO00/61723).